CLAIMS

1. A system allowing users to obtain information on monospecific probes in an online directory comprising:

a web site containing a database of monospecific probe properties and connected to users through a computer network to allow users to enter selection criteria for retrieving monospecific probe properties;

wherein the web site produces a list of matching information on monospecific probes matching the selection criteria and displays the matching information on monospecific probes on the list in an order determined by each matching probe's similarity to the selection criteria.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein information in the database comprises monospecific probe histograms.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein the histograms have been subjected to kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein the order is determined by a technique selected from the group consisting of a feature space model, relevance feedback, set training, and performance measurement.

5. A method of providing information concerning monospecific probes to users through a web site, comprising the steps of:

receiving information relating a monospecific probe from a user;

comparing the information to a monospecific probe information database;

compiling a list of matching monospecific probe information matching the information relating to a monospecific probe received from a user; and

displaying the matching monospecific probe information in an order determined by similarity of the information relating to a monospecific probe from a user to the monospecific probe information in the database.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the information in the database comprises histograms.

7. The method of claim 5 further including the steps of receiving a monospecific probe from a user; and generating a histogram for the received monospecific probe by the same flow cytometer as the histograms generated for the monospecific probe whose information is contained in the information database.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the histogram of the monospecific probe received from a user and the histograms of the monospecific probes contained in the database are subjected to kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation before comparison.

9. A directory computer that permits users to obtain a list of monospecific probes matching selection criteria provided by the users through a web site hosted on the directory computer, wherein said directory computer displays matching monospecific probes matching the selection criteria in an order determined by each matching monospecific probe's similarity to the selection criteria.

10. The directory of claim 9 wherein the selection criteria is similarity of histograms.

11. The directory of claim 9 wherein the histograms have been subjected to kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation.

12. The directory of claim 9 wherein the order is determined by a technique selected from the group consisting of a feature space model, relevance feedback, set training, and performance measurement.

13. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for:

receiving selection criteria relating to information on a monospecific probe from a user;

compiling a list of matching monospecific probes matching the selection criteria from a database of monospecific probe information; and

displaying the matching monospecific probe information in an order determined by each matching monospecific probe's similarity to the selection criteria.

14. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein information in the database comprises monospecific probe histograms.

15. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the histograms have been subjected to kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation.

16. The computer readable medium of claim 13 wherein the order is determined by a technique selected from the group consisting of a vector space model, relevance feedback, training set, and performance measurement.

17. A method of comparing two monospecific probe histograms comprising the steps of:

analyzing a first histogram by kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation;

analyzing a second histogram by kernel smoothing or kernel density estimation; and

comparing the analyzed histograms.